

MT. DIABLO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The MDARC is a general interest ham club serving amateurs in the Central Contra Costa County area. Started in 1947, the membership is approximately 300 strong. Members come from all walks of life, some professionally into the age of electronics, and others not. There is a good exchange of technical know-how between members. There is a range in age from about 10 to 85 years. The Club has a diverse range of programs and activities, all optional, in the operating, educational, public service, emergency service and social areas.

Regular Meetings are held at 8:00 p.m., the 3rd Friday of every month, except December, at the Grace Presbyterian Church, 2100 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. In December the traditional Christmas Party takes place. Non-members and non-hams are always welcome visitors at the monthly meetings. Entertaining programs are part of every meeting and topics ranging from technical thru operating events, computer science to auctions and socials are standard fare.

Public Service is a popular activity within the Club. Club members provide communications services to a wide variety of activities such as the Mt. Diablo Trail Ride, March of Dimes Walkathon, Devil Mountain Run and so forth. Most members use a hand held "walkie-talkie" and Club repeaters for this activity. There is one or more events each weekend during the nice part of the year and this is a fun and worthwhile Club activity.

Educational Programs are an important part of the Club's activities. On a volunteer basis, the Club conducts classes in the spring and fall at College Park High School. Enrollment is without fee and open to any person who would like to learn more about amateur radio, obtain a radio license, or upgrade his or her present license, etc. Out of these classes has evolved a number of members who take pleasure in helping the new or handicapped ham.

The Carrier, the Club's monthly bulletin, is an important communications vehicle with the membership. Amateur views and news, local happenings, announcements, technical articles, and so forth, make up the content. Anyone may submit articles for publication on any subject pertaining to amateur radio.

Repeaters on the 2 meter and 220 mh bands are operated by the Club under the call W6CX and under the direction of the Rocky Ridge Repeater Group. Both machines serve the greater county area. The 2 meter machine is located on Rocky Ridge - between Alamo and Lafayette and is on the 147.66/147.06 pair. The 220 machine is located on Mt. Diablo and operates on the 222.14/223.74 pair. Both machines are open access. Many of the Club's public service and emergency service activities use the repeaters.

Emergency Service is also an important activity. Regular Thursday nite nets are held on 146.43 mh, simplex, to keep our emergency communication network in a high state of readiness. Simulated Emergency Tests (SET) are held several times a year to develop amateur emergency communications capability on a regional basis.

Fun Events, such as the Club Picnic, Christmas Party, and Field Day fill out the calendar. The latter is the big Club operating event of the year. On Field Day the Club usually goes to the top of Mt. Diablo and using emergency power operates 8 to 10 transmitters in a world wide simulated emergency. Field Day is a weekend affair and usually attracts between 40 and 150 Club members.

All in all the MDARC, named Ham Club of the Year by the American Radio Relay League in 1980^{& 1982}, is a super place for hams, would be hams, and interested bystanders to develop and grow in the hobby of ham radio.

For further information - contact anyone of the following 1983 officers:

PRESIDENT.....	KA6LSL	Bob Dahl	P.O. Box 868 Pleasanton, CA	94566 846-9458
VICE-PRESIDENT.....	KA6EBF	Joe Simpson	1465 Lawrence Rd. Danville	94526 837-9679
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BOARD MEMBER.....	KT6X	Dick Brown	4125 Sacramento St., Concord	94521 676-9048
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